

City of Corunna  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, October 6, 2003

Present: Corey, Johnson, Lantis, Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Wagner.

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Judy Horton; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Bill Washburn; Brian Johnson; Rick Croteau; Keith Bailey; Shirley Sanderson; Merilee Lawson, City Assessor/Planner; Gary Granger; Helen Granger, The Independent; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Corey at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes dated September 15, 2003 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Lantis, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Sanderson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the agenda as presented and move Item No. 1) 7:15 p.m. Public Hearing to Consider Use of Economic Development Fund to Item No. 1A, change Item No. 1 to Presentation by Corunna Area Ambulance Manager and move Item No. 6) Executive Session to Consider Land Acquisition after the Roundtable Discussion.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Lantis, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the vendor disbursements dated September 15, 2003 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Lantis, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to approve the vendor disbursements dated September 26, 2003 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Lantis, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Brian Johnson advised the Independent newspaper would be at the fire training room on Saturday at 8 a.m. to do a public relations story on the new training room.

Bill Striggow asked if Item No. 16 was a carryover from several months ago. Mayor Corey asked Mr. Striggow what he was looking at. Mr. Striggow advised the mayor was to meet with John Smith about parking on King Street. Mayor Corey advised that item was a carryover from a long time ago.

PRESENTATION BY CORUNNA AREA AMBULANCE MANAGER: Rick Croteau stated he was present to discuss how the ambulance service would be handling the bridge closure. On October 28, he would be putting a proposal together for the Medical Control Board in order to get a preliminary okay from the State of Michigan. The Medical Control Board and State of Michigan recommended that he go before the city council and township to explain how the ambulance service would handle the bridge closure. Mr. Croteau further stated there was some static at the state level because of licensing problems but the ambulance service has worked around that situation by hiring another Emergency Medical Technician. There will be a rig stationed on the south side of the bridge and a base on the north side of the bridge. He also stated a basic unit would be sent to a City of Corunna residence and the echo unit would meet up with the basic unit in case there is an Advanced Life Support run. The echo unit would use the footbridge to cross the river. Mr. Croteau explained an Emergency Medical Technician and paramedic would be housed on the north side of the bridge, which would validate all of the Advanced Life Support runs on that side of the bridge. With the current licensing, the ambulance service would have had to send its big Advanced Life Support unit to rendezvous with the ambulance on the south side of the bridge in order for the ambulance service to meet its requirements of providing service 24/7. He further explained the other option was to have a basic unit on the south side of bridge and an Advanced Life Support unit on the north side of the bridge and have central dispatch tone out the nearest paramedic, which could come from Durand, Perry, or Owosso city or township. He also explained he wanted to make everyone aware of what the ambulance service's proposal was. The housing issues have not been settled yet, but once he gets approval from the Medical Control Board then the ambulance service should be good to go in January. Mr. Croteau advised if the ambulance service was to respond from its base with the bridge closed, it would take 15 minutes to get to the south side of the bridge, but if the basic unit is located on the south side of the bridge, the response time would be less. Councilperson Mehig asked if the basic unit could respond to a call even if the call is an Advanced Life Support call and if the paramedic would meet the basic unit at the scene. Mr. Croteau advised yes. Mayor Corey asked how the paramedic arrives at the scene now. Mr. Croteau advised the paramedic comes in the Advanced Life Support rig. Mayor Corey asked if it would be better to have the transport vehicle or paramedic arrive first. Mr. Croteau advised the whole crew goes when the ambulance is toned out on a call. He hopes to get central dispatch to advise the ambulance service if the run is going to be an Advanced Life Support or a Basic Life Support run.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Joe Sawyer advised council they were invited by the Odyssey of the Mind group to visit the haunted house in McCurdy Park after the meeting. He further advised the city Christmas party would be held on Saturday, December 20 at the ZCJB Hall. Last year, the city charged \$5.00 per person and the party was open to the public. He also advised the city staff provided all of the desserts last year and assumed this would be done again this year.

7:15 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER USE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FUND: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to leave the regular session and go into a public hearing to consider use of the Economic Development Fund.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Lantis, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:18 p.m.

Mayor Corey stated he made a request to the Economic Development Fund Board for a grant not to exceed \$157,500, which would be used to videotape the city's sewer system to determine the condition of the sewer system structure. The Economic Development Fund Board met and agreed to give the city a grant, but before the money can be spent, a public hearing is needed to get input from the public. Bill Striggow asked if the city was going to apply to the state for this money. Mayor Corey advised the Economic Development Fund has the money. Mr. Striggow asked if this was the fund that is used to bring in a new business. Mayor Corey advised yes. Mr. Striggow asked if the city was asking for a grant. Mayor Corey advised yes. Mr. Striggow stated that means the city would never have to pay the money back. Mayor Corey stated the city would not have the obligation to pay the money back. Mr. Striggow stated he recalls council forgiving the loan to the Downtown Development Authority in the amount of \$200,000. He further stated he does not like taking money out of one fund and putting it in another fund. The Economic Development Fund money is the taxpayer's money. Mayor Corey stated the city has been told if the money in the Economic Development Fund is not spent, the money will go back to the state. Councilperson Johnson stated the Economic Development Fund Board was told the money could be used to help the city with any type of project. Mr. Striggow advised the money did not all come from the state. Some of the money came from the federal government. Councilperson Johnson stated the city was told it had to use the money in some capacity or the city would lose it all. Mr. Sawyer advised there is roughly \$100,000 or \$150,000 in outstanding loans that will be coming in during the next 10 years. Until a year ago, the Economic Development Fund monies were restricted for helping low-income job creation. He further advised Corunna was classified as a low-income community during the last federal census, which is different than a distressed community because a distressed community has to have a population over 10,000. Mr. Sawyer stated the federal census has changed the requirements of what these federal monies can be used for, which now allows the monies to be used for anything that is in a common interest to the public. Two years ago, the economic development money could not be used for this purpose. He further stated the state has given the city a verbal yes that the state would approve the use of the money as a grant. Mr. Striggow stated a lot of that money was from interest that the city has

received from loaning out the money. Councilperson Sanderson stated when the city discovers a bad length of sewer line after televising the sewer line, the city has to get the sewer line fixed so the sewer line does not collapse and flood someone's basement, which the city is liable for. The city will have to spend some of the money, do a little work, and spend some more of the money. Mr. Sawyer stated when the city finds a collapsed sewer line, the city will have repair the sewer line. The city has to find out where the problems are so the problems can be prioritized. Mayor Corey advised he the city should videotape the entire city so the city knows what it has to deal with.

Councilperson Sanderson stated if the city televises the whole city, the city might have to dig up 50 different places. Mr. Sawyer stated it is very hard to say how many sewer line cave ins or breaks the city will find, but the city needs to know. Councilperson Wagner stated the city cannot fix the problems without knowing where the problems are.

Councilperson Sanderson stated he understood that, but the city will have a liability once the city finds a problem. Mr. Sawyer stated the city might find out that it has a bigger problem to deal with than it has cash. Councilperson Mehigh stated he agrees with televising the whole city because the city needs to know where the major problems are so it can get rid of the big problems first. Mr. Sawyer stated if the city does not know there is a sewer line problem or the sewer line is about to collapse, then the city does not have a legal liability. Councilperson Runyan stated the video lists the footage so the city will know how many feet from the manhole the problem is at instead of having to dig all over trying to find the problem. Mr. Sawyer stated the sewer line video will be aired on the next Burton Fox show. Mehigh moved, Lantis seconded to leave the public hearing and return to the regular session.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehigh, Runyan, Lantis.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:31 p.m.

Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to approve the application for use of Economic Development Funds for the sewer televising and cleaning project, in form of a grant not to exceed \$157,000, as recommended by the Economic Development Committee.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Lantis, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

#### 7:30 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER REVISIONS TO THE SIDEWALK

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION ORDINANCE: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to leave the regular session and go into a public hearing to consider revisions to the Sidewalk Maintenance and Construction Ordinance.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Lantis, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:31 p.m.

Mr. Sawyer explained the current construction code requirements require sidewalks to be constructed five feet wide, which has created an issue with the city's sidewalk program because the most of the city sidewalks are four feet wide. He further explained he is reviewing the America Disability Act requirements, but it is his understanding that other municipalities are still putting in four foot wide sidewalks in their sidewalk projects and five feet wide sidewalks when dealing with major trunk lines or in the downtown commercial district. He also explained he is double-checking the requirements to try to figure out what is required under federal and state law. Mr. Sawyer stated the city has 11.5 miles of sidewalks, which is more than he expected. He personally roller wheeled every foot of sidewalk in the city and rated the sidewalks block-by-block and parcel-by-parcel. He further stated the city has one mile of sidewalk that is in poor condition, which will cost \$80,000 to replace, and it will take the city 40 years to replace all of the city sidewalks. He also stated he is recommending putting a freeze on new sidewalk construction because the city cannot afford to construct new sidewalks with the condition of some of the existing sidewalks. There are no sidewalks in ward three except on Shiawassee Street and there are no sidewalks to the Elsa Meyer School. Mr. Sawyer advised the city has three miles of sidewalks that are rated in fair condition, which are not presenting a hazard at this time. The department of public works has been grinding down sidewalks and patching some of the bad areas temporarily, which solves the city's safety hazard crisis. He further advised the city needs to figure out how to maintain the sidewalks before the 2004 construction season. Bill Striggow stated the city had a sidewalk program when Bill Lulham was on the council. Mr. Striggow further stated he hopes whoever the city gets to do the sidewalks does a better job than the company that did the sidewalks on King/Kingsley Street. Mayor Corey asked Mr. Striggow if he was talking about the sidewalks around the school area. Mr. Striggow advised yes. Mayor Corey asked if the sidewalks were broken. Mr. Striggow advised no, but the sidewalks are tipped and zigzag down the street. He further advised there is a person in Lansing that has a cement repair business for streets and sidewalks. Mr. Sawyer asked how to reach the person. Mr. Striggow stated he would get him the name and number of the person. Councilperson Runyan advised he thought Charles Street in the third ward was closed several years ago because there are several homes sitting on Charles Street. Mr. Sawyer advised Charles Street is not developed. Merilee Lawson stated Charles Street was not vacated from Ferry Street to the river, but the street was vacated from Ferry Street going north. Mehig moved, Sanderson seconded to leave the public hearing and return to the regular session.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Lantis, Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:45 p.m.

#### CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE FIRE PROTECTION

AGREEMENT: Mayor Corey reviewed the changes to the agreement. He advised the word "provided" should have been "provide" in the first line on page three letter 4b. Since there was confusion in the way Caledonia Charter Township interpreted the second sentence on page four letter 6D, the language was changed to "The annual current year

billing, from the City, will be done in February of each year". Mr. Sawyer asked if the change would mean that the city could not bill the township for 2003. Mayor Corey advised no, everyone was in agreement that the fire agreement would take effect in 2003. Mr. Sawyer's question was valid because the city might not be able to bill the township since the township was not billed in February. Mayor Corey further advised the township is concerned that it will be charged interest for 2003, which will not be done. Mr. Sawyer stated the township is making it clear that their payment for the current year was due in February. Mayor Corey asked Councilpersons Wagner and Mehig if it was their understanding that the township has every intention of paying for 2003. Councilperson Mehig stated the township's big problem was with the interest charge. Councilperson Wagner advised the township's issue was that the township would be charged a late fee. Mayor Corey stated the word "of" was removed from the sentence on page six letter h. He further stated the township was concerned that the city would not have to pay the township so the words "or the City shall pay the Township" was added to the first sentence in item 17 on page nine. Sanderson moved, Lantis seconded to rescind the motion from September 15, 2003 approving the Fire Protection Agreement with Caledonia Charter Township. Councilperson Runyan stated he believed the only person who could rescind the motion was the person who voted negative. Mayor Corey advised he read Robert's Rules of Order several times this afternoon and he did not find this to be the case, however, a motion to amend the motion could be made. Councilperson Runyan stated this was not necessary if the mayor thought this was right. Mayor Corey advised he was not an authority on Robert's Rules of Order. Councilperson Johnson asked if she needed to make the motion first since she was the person who made the motion to begin with. Mayor Corey advised no because the motion had already been voted on and approved. Mr. Sawyer stated if a motion was brought to the table and is defeated, then the motion cannot be brought back unless someone who voted to defeat the motion brings the motion back. Mayor Corey stated Ms. Long should thank Mr. Sawyer because she is the one who is suppose to explain Robert's Rules of Order.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Lantis, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mehig moved, Lantis seconded to approve the Fire Protection Agreement with Caledonia Charter Township as presented October 6, 2003 and authorize the mayor and city clerk to sign the agreement.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehig, Runyan, Lantis.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

#### CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF KEVIN BROWN TO THE FOURTH OF JULY

COMMISSION: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to appoint Kevin Brown to the Fourth of July Commission to serve at the pleasure of the council for a term to begin upon the taking of the oath of office and continuing indefinitely.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Lantis, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER ADDING OVERHEAD DOOR TO THE EAST WALL OF THE FIRE HALL:

Councilperson Johnson stated she would like council to consider allowing her to abstain from voting on this item because she believes this is a conflict of interest due to monetary gain. Runyan moved, Sanderson seconded to allow Councilperson Johnson to abstain from voting on the issue of considering adding an overhead door to the fire hall.

Councilperson Mehigh asked Mr. Sawyer if he felt there was a conflict of interest. Mr. Sawyer advised not in his opinion, but the perceived conflict should be addressed publicly.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Lantis, Sanderson.

No: Mehigh, Johnson.

Motion CARRIED

Councilperson Runyan advised the abstention has to be approved by the whole council and referred council to page 14 of the city charter. Mayor Corey read page 14 of the city charter which states "no council shall vote on any question which they shall have a financial interest other than the common public interest." He stated Councilperson Johnson can vote on this issue according to Robert's Rules of Order and could not find anything that requires a special voting. Mr. Sawyer referred council to paragraph g on page 14 of the city charter, which states a councilperson cannot vote if there is a financial conflict. Other than a financial interest issue, a unanimous consent of the remaining members present is required for abstention. Councilperson Sanderson stated if a person gets a contract from the city then that person can hire anyone the person wants to and pay the person whatever the person who got the contract wants to pay that person. Mr. Sawyer advised there is no contract request. The request is to allow the fire department personnel to do the work in house, which will be cheaper than hiring a contractor. Mayor Corey stated since Councilperson Johnson was not excused by unanimous consent of the remaining members present then Councilperson Johnson will get to vote. Mehigh moved, Wagner seconded approve the installation of an overhead door on the east wall of the fire hall for a cost not to exceed \$7,500 to be paid for from line item 207-266-818.000 (Municipal Building Fund Contractual Services).

Roll call vote:

Yes: Lantis, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Sanderson stated people have stopped him as he walks downtown to ask him when the city is going to fix the railroad track. He talked to State Representative Larry Julian about the railroad track on South Shiawassee Street

and was referred to a Bob Charpenka. Councilperson Sanderson further stated he called Bob Charpenka who he was unable to reach. Councilperson Sanderson also stated he called the Durand city manager because Durand is having two railroad tracks redone at the present time and was told the railroad is repairing the two railroad tracks themselves. Councilperson Sanderson stated Mr. Charpenka called back the other day and was advised that Mr. Charpenka was still working on the situation. There was a person looking at the railroad tracks on Sunday who happened to be Mr. Charpenka's assistant. Councilperson Sanderson further stated he was told if Shiawassee Street is a trunk line, the state might help the city pay to repair the railroad track. He asked Mr. Sawyer if South Shiawassee Street was a trunk line since the street is a major truck route. Mr. Sawyer advised South Shiawassee Street is a federal major street. Councilperson Sanderson explained the state's budget for the year was to do 20 railroad crossings, but the state has done 22 railroad crossings this year so nothing would be done this year. He further explained he was also told that shims could be placed to raise the west side of the railroad tracks until repair work could be done to the railroad tracks. He also explained he wanted to let the people know that the city council is looking into the problem.

Mayor Corey advised the Veteran's Day Parade is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on November 11 in Durand. Council should be at the parade lineup location at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Sawyer asked if the Christmas party should be done the same as last year. Based on last year's attendance, the city's cost would be about \$1,500 and there is adequate monies budgeted in the council department to cover this event. He advised this is a wonderful event that all residents, taxpayers and volunteers are invited to. In order to break even, \$10 or \$15 per person would have to be charged. Councilperson Mehigh stated if the city charges too much, no one will come and the original idea was to thank the volunteers. He further stated this event is a good way to get acquainted with the citizens and he would like to see the event continued. Mayor Corey stated he thought the event was important to continue, but the event should be marketed differently. He further stated it would be great to sell out the event to a point where the event has to be moved somewhere else. The event should be held as a celebration of the community, and the city should try to get people that are not involved in the city to come to the event. Councilperson Runyan stated there should be a cutoff date for ticket sales. Janet Washburn advised people have two weeks to buy tickets. Mayor Corey stated people tend to wait until the last minute to attend these things. He asked if there would be a newsletter coming out in the fall and suggested putting the event on the front page of the newsletter in order to get the community to come. Ms. Washburn advised the event was published in the newspaper last year. Mayor Corey stated there is a difference between saying the event is open to the community and encouraging the community to come. The event should be promoted as being a community event. Ms. Washburn advised the event could be placed on the community calendar. Councilperson Mehigh suggested mentioning the Christmas party during the Burton Fox show. Mr. Sawyer stated he wanted to know if the city should start promoting the event like last year, do more promoting or raise the price. Council and the mayor agreed that everything should be same as last year. Mr. Sawyer updated council on the Olmsted building remodeling and advised roughly \$9,000 has been spent to date to create the fire annex. A phenomenal



amount of work was done by the fire department, which they should be commended for. He further explained nearly \$15,000 has been spent in the common area portion of the building. Councilperson Johnson stated a few firemen have spent their days and nights working at the fire annex and are being chastised for having lunch afterwards.

Bill Striggow stated the city council deserves a pat on the back for having the get together with the business owners. Mayor Corey advised the Downtown Development Authority put on the event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER LAND ACQUISITION: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to leave the regular session and go into executive session to consider land acquisition.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Lantis, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:29 p.m.

Mehigh moved, Wagner seconded to leave the closed session and return to regular session.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Lantis, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:25 p.m.

No action took place during the closed session.

ADJOURN: Mehigh moved, Runyan seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehigh, Runyan, Lantis.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:26 p.m.

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STEVE COREY, MAYOR

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YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK